

PH 011 26 40
11/07/72

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Los Angeles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 3 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Los Angeles Plaza Historical Group *District*

AND/OR HISTORIC:
El Pueblo de Los Angeles (State Historic Park)

2. LOCATION

revised letter of Dec 12, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Main St. *Bounded by: Spring St, Macy Street, Alameda Street, Arcadia Street. (See map dated Sept 21, 1972, revised Dec 7, 1972) Between Arcadia St. & Sunset Blvd. - Alameda and Spring Street*

CITY OR TOWN:
Los Angeles

STATE: California CODE: 06 COUNTY: Los Angeles CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
A combination of State, City, and church property - State of California, City of Los Angeles & Los Angeles Diocese

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento; City of Los Angeles; Catholic Diocese

CITY OR TOWN:
Los Angeles

STATE: California CODE: 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 North Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:
Los Angeles

STATE: California CODE: 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
California Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee

DATE OF SURVEY: 1960 Federal State County Local

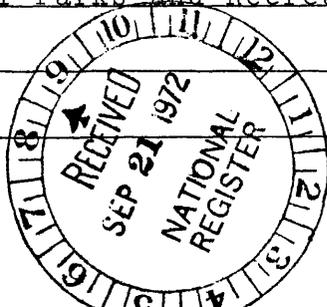
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:
1416 9th Street

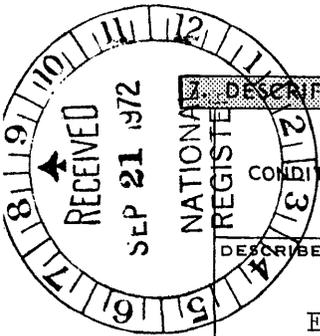
CITY OR TOWN:
Sacramento

STATE: California CODE: 06

STATE: California
COUNTY: Los Angeles
ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 3 1972
DATE: NOV 3 1972
FOR NPS USE ONLY



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic District, the area where Los Angeles was founded and the hub of its growth during the Hispanic and American (19th Century) eras, retains a rich composite group of buildings as evidence of the blending ethnic groups and cultures which founded this City and shaped its subsequent growth.

Within this area, appropriately enough close to the center of modern downtown Los Angeles (see top picture opposite), are several buildings of historic authenticity and representing the several architectural styles which appeared at various times during the City's growth. While all historic buildings had been modified somewhat by additions or other alterations over many decades by the time the State Historic Park was established in 1953, current intensive research and restorative efforts seek to reestablish pristine authenticity.

The Plaza Church (1822) represents the Mission Adobe period (1818-1846). The Pico House (1869) is a well-preserved example of Victorian brick and stone structures erected in the area between 1869 to 1890. Later pre-20th Century structures of concrete and plaster also still stand.

Other specific buildings of historic interest within the Plaza District include the Pelanconi House (two-story brick, 1855) and Sepulveda House (two-story brick, 1860), both now authentically restored after intense research; Firehouse (two-story brick, 1884); the Avila Adobe (one-story adobe, 1818); Merced Theater (three-story brick, 1869); Masonic Hall (two-story brick, 1858); Garnier Building (two-story cut stone and brick structure, 1890).

As mentioned, some of these buildings have been restored or stabilized. For example, the Avila Adobe, considerably damaged during the February, 1971 earthquake, is being fully restored to appear as it was in the period of its greatest historical significance.

Other buildings of later days are interspersed about the Plaza Square or flanking Olvera Street -- a brick-paved arcade filled with stalls, shops and restaurants all tastefully accenting the Mexican motif. Some of the later buildings are, or will be functionally preserved, others will be replaced with developments compatible with the area. Those few of the developments and activities within the District not precisely historic in design or flavor contribute to historic preservation by creating an atmosphere and providing facilities to make possible the active participation of concessionaires serving and, indeed, helping attract the growing volume of visitors coming annually to see this active area with authentic and uninterrupted links to its historic past. (See bottom picture opposite).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CD 2N 11 NZ 47
 0016943
 3768950
 3768950
 3769100
 3769100
 385520 916) 385730
 385790 500) 385520 916) 385730

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Spots in California - Rensch and Hoover
Los Angeles County Historic Area Study - Dept. of Parks & Recreation
 February 1966

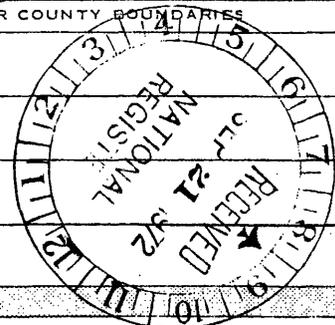
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	34°	03'	32"	118°	14'	20"						
NE	34°	03'	26"	118°	14'	08"						
SE	34°	03'	17"	118°	14'	16"						
SW	31°	03'	23"	118°	14'	27"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 42.00 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John Hunt, Area Economic Coordinator

ORGANIZATION: City of Los Angeles DATE: 8-14-72

STREET AND NUMBER: 200 North Spring Street, Room 278

CITY OR TOWN: Los Angeles STATE: California CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date of Original Submission: 8-3-70
 Date: September 8, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/3/72

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 11-1-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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since 1781 for one reason or another. (See maps opposite). It played a major role in the history of the American frontier and the westward movement and, as such, has had truly national significance since the day it was founded.

Today's Plaza area is the living composite story of Los Angeles' growth from Indian times prior to 1781 through Spanish, Mexican and American periods to become the nation's largest city on the Pacific basin.

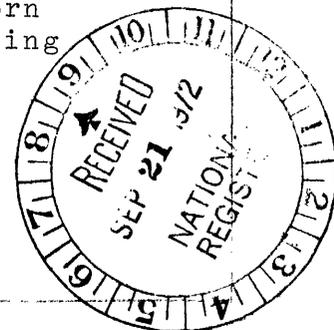
The Plaza area of Los Angeles offers a unique opportunity for telling the story of the founding and growth of the nation's third-largest city. This 42-acre area with its historic structures annually attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors coming from every state in the Union and most of the nations of the world, as well as a never-ending stream of local residents, particularly school children.

One may stand in the Plaza kiosk and hear historic bronze bells of the Plaza Church (1822) summoning worshippers today just as they did 150 years ago. From here may be seen the Avila Adobe (1818) used by Commodore Stockton, General Stephen Kearny and General Fremont as a headquarters and government house. Kit Carson knew this adobe well. Just south of the Kiosk is the Pico House, built in 1869 by the last Mexican governor of California. Also in the area is the Merced Theater (1869); La Casa Pelanconi, possibly Los Angeles' first brick house and ultimately the house of Jose Mascarel who was Mayor of Los Angeles shortly after the Civil War; Sepulveda House (1870); the Old Plaza Fire House (1884) now housing one of the city's first fire engines; the Garnier Building of early Victorian architectural style; and the Masonic Hall, the first lodge building of this venerable order in Southern California.

The inexorable march of human events through successive generations, frequently of national significance, has continually touched this area since its founding nearly 200 years ago as a Pueblo, one of only two Pueblos founded in California by Spanish colonizers (other population centers dating back to that time began as Missions), and the only Pueblo to survive to this day.

The Plaza is a living historical district for which even greater restorative efforts are a continuing goal; a truly national monument to preserve for generations yet unborn tangible evidence of the dreams and efforts of colonizing generations long turned to dust.

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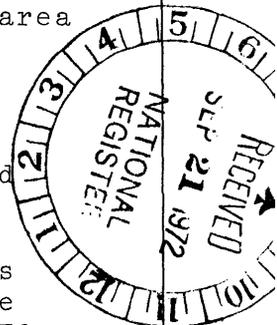
Beginning with 44 settlers recruited in the Sinaloa area by Mexico, by 1800 Los Angeles contained a population of 350 inhabitants. In 1815 the original Plaza was relocated to its present area as a means of evading flood. In 1818 a new church was built, identified in records as Chiesa de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles. Services there began in 1822 and continue to the present day. Its historic bronze bells summon those who are members of the church now even as they did nearly 150 years ago.

Standing nearby is the Avila House, the oldest residence in the City of Los Angeles and one of the oldest adobe structures in the State. Owned originally by Francisco Avila, it became so involved with political intrigue that it was known for years as "La Casa Revolucionaria". When Avila was killed as a result of his revolutionary activities, the family settled down to less vigorous living, interrupted by events related to the war with Mexico when their adobe served briefly as Commodore Robert F. Stockton's headquarters.

During this early period, the Plaza became a fashionable area for residential construction; the Carrillos, Sepulvedas, Lugos, Olveras, and other leaders of the community having built their homes there. The current Sepulveda House, located in the heart of the area on Olvera Street, though built in the 1870's is a later residence of a family noted in California since early times.

In 1860, a United States surveyor described Los Angeles as a group of one-story houses mostly "build of adobe or some burnt brick with very thick walls and flat roofs". By 1872, a change in Los Angeles was apparent. North of the Plaza it retained a style characteristically Mexican; south of that area it was a vigorous American city. Buildings built during this time were the Pelanconi House, Pico House, Merced Theatre, the old Plaza Firehouse, the Masonic Hall and the Garnier Building.

The City of Los Angeles in 1870 had 5,700 people, 110 saloons, and 4,000 dogs. The Plaza area had quantities representative of each. When reached by railroad in 1876, Los Angeles underwent a dramatic change from provincial center to city. Subsequent years raised the population from 102,479 in 1900 to 2,000,071 in 1953. By 1955 the population of the greater Los Angeles area had reached 5 million. During these times, the Plaza (Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic District) became even more cosmopolitan. No longer the geographical center of



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the city it continued for sometime, nevertheless, to exert strong influence. Additional structures were built, filling in gaps between those built earlier. The flat roofed, unpretentious one-story adobe huts of "Sonoran Town" gave way to solid brick warehouse type structures and business houses. Where, in 1872, fully one-half of the area's citizens were Spanish or Mexican, by 1890 the city was predominately American, with some Mexican-Americans, and Chinese. By the turn of the century, the Plaza area had deteriorated and became a semi-slum. In 1892, Olvera Street had become a disreputable alley, and much of the surrounding buildings had followed suit. The Lugo House became a Chinese store, rooming house and some say, an opium den before being torn down.

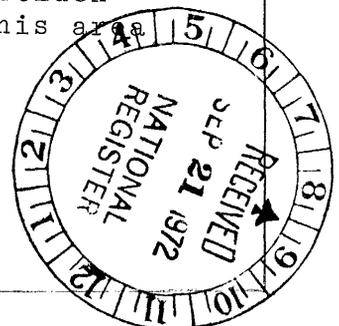
This was the scene when Mrs. Christine Sterling arrived in Los Angeles to head a group interested in cleaning up "skid Row" and preserving its historical background. Through her initiative, Olvera Street and the surrounding area gradually improved. The street itself becoming a Mexican marketing center bringing back some of the flavor of its pre-American past.

In 1953, the area was acquired by the County, City and State as Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park. Subsequent development of the area is discussed in section seven of the nomination form.

A historical resume on other structures included in the historic district nomination follows:

Plaza Area

An adequate record of the appearance of the Plaza is available from 1848 on from drawings and photographs. It was not laid out in circular form until the early 1870's. In the 1890's and later, a public market was developed around the Plaza, wagons loaded with produce being backed up to the edge of the circle. There have been various landscaping treatments; a statue of Filipe de Neve was placed in the center of the Plaza in 1931 by the Native Daughters of the Golden West. There will be continued effort to landscape this area in accordance with historical integrity.



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

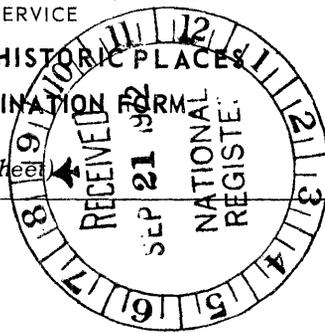
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Buildings South of the Plaza

The Masonic Building:

This is the oldest structure in the Pueblo area south of the Plaza. It was the first lodge building in Los Angeles, the second meeting place of Los Angeles Lodge No. 42. The building was constructed in 1858 by the firm of Terry and Woodworth, designed for store space on the bottom floor and "a satisfactory room for Lodge purposes" on the second floor. To encourage construction, the Lodge loaned money at the rate of one and one-half percent per annum and paid rental of \$20 per month for the use of the Lodge room. Arthur Ellis, in a historical review of the Lodge, asserts that "Los Angeles Lodge No. 42 was the first American organization set up here subsequent to the government itself, and in truth the institution most firmly interwoven in the life and growth of Southern California". This building has been completely restored. Its upper floor is periodically used as a Masonic Hall.

The Pico Hotel:

Construction was begun on the Pico House on September 4, 1869 and completed June 19, 1870. Pio Pico had sold half of San Fernando Valley for \$115,000 to build the hotel. This was to be the finest hotel in the city and he chose the site on the corner of Main Street and the Plaza. This site had been originally granted to Jose Antonio Carillo (1821) and the Carillo Adobe was razed to make way for the hotel. Newspapers of the period carried full descriptions of the hotel, for a short time the pride of the city.

The building has not been altered basically though many minor changes have been made in interior arrangement. The ground floor originally contained the hotel office, a lobby, two dining rooms and two stores, one of which was occupied by the Wells Fargo Express Company. The second floor was composed of suites; there was also a public parlor. From the gallery around the interior court on this floor, there was a private entrance to the Merced Theatre, enabling the guests to reach the boxes and take their seats without the trouble of going out into the street or mingling with the crowd. The third floor was devoted exclusively to sleeping rooms. The furnishings for the hotel cost \$34,000. The total cost was \$82,000.

Although the hotel was the finest in Los Angeles, it had a very short period of prosperity: it was closed for over a year

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around 1879. The Pico House was soon to be victim of environmental deterioration and competition. Prior to its construction the Bella Union, the United States Hotel, and the Lafayette were hotels of distinction in Los Angeles. By 1880, there had been added the Nadeau, the St. Charles, the Natick, and the St. Elmo. Although Los Angeles served a large hinterland, a town of 11,000 could not support this many hostelries. By 1880, Pico had lost the hotel; in 1892 the name was changed, for a decade or so, to the "National Hotel". In 1897, the building was leased by G. Pagliano and G. Berniatico, and in 1930 Pagliano purchased the building. The story of this building is intimately involved with that of its founder, the last Governor of California under Mexican rule. In some ways, it is a memorial to this early pioneer and political leader.

The Merced Theatre:

The first wooden frame building in Los Angeles was erected in 1851 on this site just south of Pico Hotel; it was used as a saloon and later as a Methodist Church. William Abbott started work on the theatre in June 1870 and it was opened December 30, 1870. The theatre was on the second floor with living accommodations for the Abbott family on the third floor. The ground floor was used for business: Barker Bros. once occupied this site (Barker Bros. were noted pioneer furniture dealers in Los Angeles.) On December 7, 1872, an organization meeting for a public library was held in the Merced Theatre, although the structure was never used as a library building.

Like the Pico Hotel, the Merced Theatre had a very short life as a successful venture. By 1890 it was no longer listed as a theatre. With the turn of the century, the upper floors of the Merced were transformed into cheap sleeping rooms; the building remaining in such use throughout the next half century. The Merced Theatre, now restored, will be reoccupied ultimately at least in part, as a theatre, the lower floor being converted to other commercial use.

The Garnier Building:

In 1890 Phillippe Garnier constructed a building specifically intended for use of Chinese renters. Garnier built only the exterior walls; the interior walls and arrangements were constructed by the Chinese lessees.

For some years the building was occupied by the importing firm of Sun Wing Wo; throughout this period the managers for

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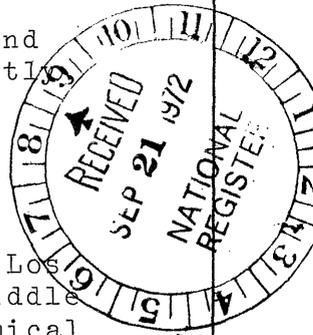
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the company in this building has been one family, Lew Tou Pew. Pew was manager until 1896; his son Lew Sen Lai was head of the business from 1896 until 1948. Later its management was taken over by Lew Yee Fong.

The Chinese Benevolent Society (Association), an organization which has been of great importance in the life of the Chinese in Los Angeles, had its headquarters on the second floor of this structure from 1900 until 1948. Subsequently the building was acquired and restored by the State. Arrangements for its new concession are under way.



Fire House:

The two-story brick building on the corner of Plaza and Los Angeles Streets was constructed in 1880, and from the middle of the 1880's until the late 1890's was occupied by Chemical Company No. 1 of the Los Angeles Fire Department. During that time, it was leased from the owner, Mrs. Bigelow, for \$50 per month. Following its use as a fire station, it was converted to other purposes, there having been sleeping rooms on the second floor and a restaurant and saloon on the ground floor. Subsequent to this, the building has been completely and authentically restored and serves today as a repository-exhibit of fire apparatus and equipment of the 1880's.

Sepulveda Building:

Built circa 1883-4 by Eloisa Martinez de Sepulveda for use as a residence-hotel-boarding house. One of the truly Victorian structures left in Los Angeles, it possesses elaborate iron grill work, a cupolo, and other features which identify it with late 19th Century Los Angeles. Both the Martinez and Sepulveda families were outstanding pioneers in Southern California.

Pelanconi Building:

This building was among the first brick structures built in Los Angeles circa 1852-3. Brick was manufactured of local clays by Jesse Hunter, brickmaker, who was the first to ply his trade in Los Angeles. The Pelanconis were an Italian family originating on the Island of Malta. In its early days, the upper floor was used as a residence, the lower (basement) as a winery. Subsequently it became a warehouse for Chinese merchants. Today its basement it used as a restaurant specializing in Mexican dishes.

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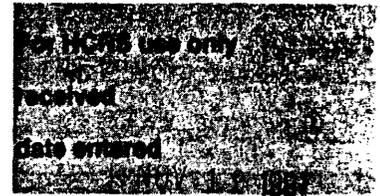
Other Buildings on Sanchez Street:

These buildings were constructed in 1890 or later and were used by Chinese for shops, stores and rooming houses. Today these buildings are used as official offices of the Pueblo de Los Angeles Commission and by the Department of Parks and Recreation.



**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

RECEIVED
OCT 29 1981

1. Name EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK DISTRICT (N.R. 11/3/72)

historic 1. PLAZA HOUSE (GARNIER BLOCK) 2. VICKREY/BRUNSWIG 3. BRUNSWIG ANNEX

and/or common 4. PLAZA METHODIST CHURCH 5. PLAZA COMMUNITY CENTER (BISCAILUZ BUILDING)

2. Location

street & number 1. 507-11 N. Main St. 2. 501 N. Main St. 3. 502 New High (111 Republic)
4. 115 Paseo de la Plaza 5. 125 Paseo de la Plaza — not for publication

city, town Los Angeles — vicinity of congressional district 25th
state California code county Los Angeles code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Bldgs #1-3: County of Los Angeles Bldgs #4-5: State of California
street & number Hall of Administration Department of Parks & Recreation
225 N. Hill Street P.O. Box 2390
city, town Los Angeles, CA 90012 — vicinity of Sacramento, CA 95811
state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hall of Records
street & number 227 N. Broadway
city, town Los Angeles state California 90012

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Survey for Los Angeles City
title Historic Preservation Overlay Zone has this property been determined eligible? yes no

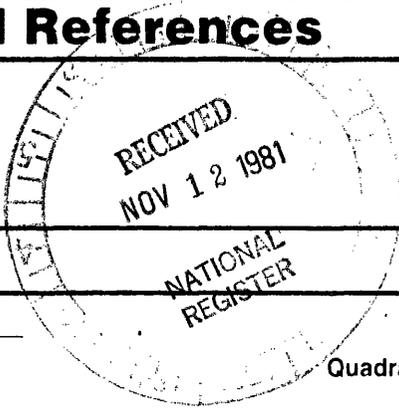
date May, 1981 — federal — state — county — local

depository for survey records Cultural Heritage Bd., Cultural Affairs Dept., 200 N. Spring St.

city, town Los Angeles state California 90012

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET



10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 10

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

UMT References

A

1	1	3	8	5	5	5	0	3	7	6	8	9	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	1	3	8	5	9	2	0	3	7	6	9	1	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	1	3	8	5	7	4	0	3	7	6	8	7	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

Area 1: N. Main St. southerly to Republic St., thence westerly to N. Spring St., thence northerly to the southern property line of the Plaza Catholic Church, thence easterly to N. Main. Area 2: bounded by Olvera St west, Paseo de la Plaza south, Placita de Dolores east, and Plaza Substation north.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Miller, Member of the Board, LA Conservancy, 849 S. Broadway, ste 1225, LA 90014
Blaine Mallory, Historical Researcher, El Pueblo SHP, LA, CA 90012

organization Jean Bruce Poole, Senior Curator, El Pueblo SHP, LA, CA 90012
Katherine A. Peters, Historical Researcher, date El Pueblo SHP, LA, CA 90012

street & number EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK
845 NORTH ALAMEDA STREET telephone _____

city or town LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 state _____

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title SHPO date 11/4/81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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This nomination amendment concerns five structures contiguous to the El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 3, 1972. It is designed to add three structures which are located within the original boundaries of the district: the Brunswig Annex, the Plaza Community Center (Biscailuz Building) and the Plaza Methodist Church. It also contains more information concerning the Plaza House and the Vickrey/Brunswig Building which were included within the original district but were not discussed in adequate detail.

The three additional buildings, constructed between 1897 and 1926, contribute to the historical character of the El Pueblo district which is the birthplace and historical core of Los Angeles. As noted, these structures are contiguous to the district and are visually linked to it. Although altered, these structures conform to the basic height and scale of the district, and they remain on their original sites.

The immediate area of the Los Angeles County-owned buildings is defined by New High Street to the west, North Main Street to the east, Republic Street to the south and the Plaza Catholic Church to the north. The buildings date from c.1883-97 and were constructed of brick and/or concrete painted beige, with flat roofs and simple plans, and they are currently used for storage purposes or are vacant. Much of the original ornamentation has been removed and all the buildings are in a state of disrepair.

The area surrounding the buildings consists of sidewalks and a parking lot opening onto New High Street, which passes through the center of the property. The two other buildings included in this nomination amendment are located within the Plaza area. The Plaza Methodist Church (4) and the Plaza Community Center (Biscailuz Building) (5) stand side by side on the north end of the Plaza Kiosco area, east of Olvera Street, and west of Alameda Street. Both were built in 1926.

1) PLAZA HOUSE (GARNIER BLOCK*)
Location: 507-11 North Main

Date: 1883
Owner: County of Los Angeles

The Plaza House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the district in 1972 but requires further description at this time.

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BOUNDARY CHANGE FOR EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES,
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The plan is rectangular. It is a two-story brick structure with a five-bay front. It is adjacent to the Vickrey/Brunswig Building, with the Pico House and the Merced Theatre located diagonally across the street. It faces east.

Philippe Garnier, a Frenchman, built the structure in 1883 as a combination hotel and commercial building. It was designed by the firm of Kysor and Morgan who were responsible for the design of the Pico House and the Merced Theatre in c.1870.

The ground floor originally housed stores, a saloon and a restaurant, with lodging rooms upstairs located on either side of a central hall. A large skylight runs in a north-south direction along the roof. There is a wooden kitchen at the rear (west).

The east facade is 60.5 feet long. Its ground floor store fronts are presently boarded over, but historically were divided into three separate entrances. These entrances are flanked by molded pilasters and were originally headed by large glass transoms. The original windows have been altered and are now multi-paned. Second story windows are segmentally arched with fluted pilaster-like mullions and continuous sills. The windows vary in size: the central window and end windows are double and the remaining are triple (double mullions). Each window has 1/1 lights and a decorative leaded glass transom. The facade has a molded belt course between each window and transom.

Very little of the original ornament remains as it was removed by the County for fear of seismic hazard following the earthquake of 1971. This included the bracketed cornice, dentils and panelled frieze, as well as the detailed central triangular pediment, the "Garnier Block" relief at the base of this pediment and the "Plaza House" relief below. The continuous molding, or archivolt, above each of the second-story windows and the panelled areas directly below the continuous sills were also removed. Unfortunately, only ghosts of some of the building's decorative elements remain. However, it must be noted that the basic structural elements have remained unaltered and the building would be very suitable for restoration.

The interior of the Plaza House appears to be very little altered, although it has been severely damaged due to vandalism and neglect. It has

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a very pleasing floor plan and would also be well suited for restoration.

*The Plaza House was at one time known as the Garnier Block, however the name is not currently used due to possible confusion with the present Garnier Block located within the park.

2) VICKREY/BRUNSWIG BUILDING
Location: 501 North Main

Date: 1888
Owner: County of Los Angeles

The Vickrey/Brunswig Building is situated on the corner of Republic Street and North Main. The building was constructed by Ofield Vickrey in 1888 as a commercial endeavor. According to a Los Angeles Herald in 1888, R.B. Young was the architect of the then 20-room, \$85,000 building. Lot dimensions were 58.10 feet on North Main, 96.95 feet on Republic and 106.71 feet along the south wall of the Plaza House. The building had three stores on North Main with a passageway behind and two additional stores running in a north-south direction behind it which opened on Sonora Street (Republic Street). The passageway contained an elevator and a stairway. Another stairway rose from the North Main Street entrance. A huge skylight ran from east to west on the roof.

The five-story brick and concrete building (with basement) is four bays wide and seven bays deep. It is painted beige with brown trim imitating the color scheme of the Plaza House next door. It has a recessed entrance with double doors which have a large double-pane transom on the north side.

Each story of the Vickrey/Brunswig Building is defined by its own distinctive window type. The second and fourth story windows are segmentally arched with scrollwork within the arch. Third-story windows are rectangular with turned pilaster-like mullions and dentilled lintels. Fifth-story windows are round arched. The bays on either end of the front have triple windows; the center bays are double. Each bay is framed by an engaged pilaster with ornamental capitals. The window pattern is repeated on the building's south side.

Like the Plaza House, much of the Vickrey/Brunswig's original ornament was removed for fear of earthquake hazard in the early 1970's. Its

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ground floor molded pilasters were removed as well as the original bracketed cornice, decorative panelled frieze, dentils, and roof cresting. Heavy molding on the eaves and corner pilasters were removed. The centrally located triangular pediments, which appear in early photographs, were removed also. The name of the building has changed three times, and accordingly the title in the triforium of the pediment: in 1888, "Vickrey Building," in 1905, "F.W. Braun," and later, "Brunswig."

A photograph taken in 1905 shows all of the north elevation windows bricked in, possibly to create a continuous wall surface for advertising, as appears in the photo for the F.W. Braun Company (photo 12). Existing north elevation windows vary. Five of the seven bays have been altered and are rectangularly shaped with 6/1 lights, plain lug sills and plain lintels. Two of the seven bays have been bricked in and appear to have been segmentally arched with plain lintels and sills. The building is currently used for storage purposes by the County. It was abandoned in July of 1976 due to possible hazard from its asbestos insulation and unreinforced brick.

3) BRUNSWIG ANNEX

Location: 502 New High Street
111 Republic Street

Date: 1897
Owner: County of Los Angeles

The Brunswig Annex Building was constructed in 1897 on the corner of Sonora Street (Republic Street) and New High, directly behind the Vickrey/Brunswig Building. The original rectangular, two-story building had a third story added sometime between 1897 and 1909. The brick line of this new story is still visible. According to the County assessment records, large scale improvements were made to the building in 1909. The structure is four bays deep with a segmentally arched entrance on the south elevation, eastern end.

First and second story windows are segmentally arched with simple brick lintels. More recent third story windows are coupled with round arches, continuous molded lintels and plain lug sills. The rear (west) elevation has asymmetrically placed rectangular windows: three on the second story, and one on the third; it has a recessed entrance with double doors at the northern end. Also adding interest to the building are decorative glass tiles which are firmly fixed in the adjacent sidewalks.

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It was nine bays wide and fifteen bays deep. It has always faced south toward what is now Paseo de la Plaza. A rear three-bay deep block still stands a story taller than the remainder of the building and projects four or five feet eastward toward Union Station.

The original ground level was 1 1/2 stories and consisted of a recessed, segmentally arched arcade-like entry, and an elevated (10 steps) central entrance with three floor-to-ceiling windows on either side. It had an iron balustrade enclosing its open front porch. Windows were designed in groups of three; all were simple rectangular casements with single-pane transoms. Fourth-story windows originally had decorative lintels and all the windows had plain lug sills. Between each three-bay section at the fourth-story level was a simple pilaster (each was flanked by a molded ornament). Also above each three-bay section was a square molded ornament.

Because the structure was built on a slight slope, the north (rear) elevation is approximately six feet lower than the south facade. The original front basement windows were small eight-light casements. To the rear however (east side), the lower story was large enough to contain a 1-car garage. Directly adjacent to the garage, on the east side, there also was an iron fire escape.

During the 1960's, the building was much altered by Burnett C. Turner to give it a more Spanish style appearance. A tiled hipped roof was added to the main block, and one was also added to the rear projecting section. Each three-bay window grouping was combined to create single windows with double mullions. The building now stands three bays wide by five bays deep. Third story windows have small iron balconies. Fourth-story windows have continuous sills. The original segmentally arched arcade-like entry has been altered; it has been extended around the east side of the building and is now more of a continuous arcade with round arched openings. The elevated central entrance is decorated with colorful Mexican tiles, and a simple iron railing encloses a small stairway which now runs from east to west. Heavy wooden beams stand overhead. The stucco is painted white and on the facade, behind the arcade, is a mural, "Blessing of the Animals," painted by Leo Politi.

The building is occupied by the Mexican Consulate-General, and was completely altered in the interior during the 1960's to create space for several offices.

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The Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park District is significant, in the words of the 1972 nomination, as "the living composite story of Los Angeles from Indian times prior to 1781 through Spanish, Mexican and American periods to become the nation's largest city on the Pacific basin. The Plaza area of Los Angeles offers a unique opportunity for telling the story of the founding and growth of the nation's third-largest city." The five structures with which this nomination amendment is concerned contribute to the significance of the El Pueblo district by adding appreciably to its "living composite story."

The Brunswig Annex Building documents the "Americanization" and the strong involvement of French and French Canadian settlers in this predominantly hispanic town of the 1870's and 1880's. The remaining structures illustrate the continuing use of the Plaza area for a variety of urban functions during the early twentieth century.

The manner in which these structures contribute to the significance of the district can be discussed in terms of the specific site history of each.

The PLAZA HOUSE (GARNIER BLOCK) (1) was built on property owned by Pío Pico, last Mexican Governor of Alta California, and by B. Sodela (Sottela) in c.1856. Pío Pico maintained a large house running the full length of the north/south property line along Calle Principal (Main Street). The small adobe belonging to Sodela was situated on the north property line at the rear of the lot.

An 1876 photo shows the long narrow adobe on North Main (which had belonged to Jesus Dominguez in the early 1850's before Pio Pico acquired it). In 1882-83 this adobe and any other small outbuildings on the site were levelled to make room for Phillippe Garnier's hotel and shops. Garnier was later responsible for the Garnier Block on Los Angeles Street which was built in 1891 for Chinese occupancy.

In 1887, the building housed a store at 407 North Main, a saloon at 409, and a restaurant at 411. An 1888 photo shows a livery stable in the building, while the Vickrey/Brunswig (2) is under construction next door. Sleeping rooms were located to the rear of the Plaza House, and upstairs. A prominent Los Angeles physician of Spanish origin named G. Del Amo had his medical offices at 411 through 1894; Dr. Del Amo was also the Spanish Counsel. Later he married a member of the Dominguez family. Doctor Lucio Zabala was

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in the building in 1891, and then throughout the 1890's there were a bakery at 511, a physician at 511 1/2, groceries at 507 and 509 and a gallery at 513. The building was called "Tourist Block" in 1892 and "Ohio House" from 1892-94. In 1910 it was listed in the Directories as "hotel, 507-11 North Main." The structure was owned by Marianne C. G. Garnier until about 1913 when it was transferred to Peter Garnier. In 1914 there was a clothing and dry goods store at 509, and by 1921 the building was referred to as the "Garnier Block Hotel." By 1931 the building was owned by the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, who sold it to the Garnier Holding Company in 1940. "La Esperanza" bakery and restaurant had moved in by c.1930, and remained throughout the 1950's. The bakery sign still stands over the door. The County purchased the building in 1948. It housed the County Sheriff's offices in the 1950's.

The VICKREY/BRUNSWIG BUILDING (2) was built on land owned by Jesus (or Joseph) Dominguez on the corner of Calle Principal (North Main Street) and Hayes Alley (Republic Street). The Dominguez adobe faced North Main during the early 1850's. It was then transferred to Pío Pico (see Plaza House history). By 1887 the lot had become a marble granite yard which included a woodshed, office and one other small building. The 1888 Sanborn map labels 405 North Main "being built" and housing five stores. A photo taken soon after the building was completed shows that the "Vickrey Building" was the home of "Asphalt Paving Co.," whose company remained there until at least 1892.

During the early 1890's, the Vickrey Building served as a residence for Thomas W. Temple, who was the editor of "La Cronica," B. Lee Vickrey, Chauncey Vickrey and Miss Dora C. Vickrey; a dressmaker, shirt manufacturer, newspaper, tailor and others occupied the building through 1897. In 1898 F. W. Braun and Co. purchased the building at 501-05 North Main. Braun moved from his former offices at 401-07 North Main where he had maintained a wholesale drug business. The F. W. Braun Company was incorporated in 1902 as the Los Angeles branch of the southern and midwestern firm of Brunswig and Braun.

Lucien Brunswig, born in 1854 in Montmedy, France, was a well known philanthropist who began his drug manufacturing career in Atchison, Kansas and owned a drug store in Fort Worth, Texas. The son of a doctor, Brunswig started work in the drug business at the age of seventeen.

Brunswig first came to Los Angeles in 1887 from New Orleans to establish a branch of his drug company on New High Street, within a block of

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the later site. The Brunswig family, consisting of Lucien and his wife, Marguerite, with their four daughters and one son, moved to Los Angeles permanently in 1905. By July 26, 1907, Brunswig had bought his partner, Braun, out and incorporated Brunswig Drug with branches in Phoenix, Tucson and San Diego.

The Vickrey/Brunswig Building was first used for the manufacture and storage of drugs in 1907. By 1910, Brunswig Drug had spread into the Brunswig Annex Building (3), the Old Brunswig Building (to its north) and to the Beaudry Building (which was destroyed in c.1930). Within a few years the company had the largest manufacturing labs west of Chicago. They produced all of the standard pharmaceutical products and maintained distribution to all parts of the United States, Canada and England.

Lucien N. Brunswig founded the pharmacy school at the University of Southern California. In 1927 he donated 1,000 French literature books to UCLA. He created a foundation for the aid of French tubercular children after the Second World War, and was titled Chevalier of France by the French Government for his founding of the French Red Cross on the Pacific coast of the United States during World War One. During the late 1920's, he was one of six men who contributed \$5,000 to the Plaza de Los Angeles Inc. to help Christine Sterling create a Mexican marketplace on Olvera Street.

The building has been owned by the County of Los Angeles since the 1940's and has been used mainly for the Civil Service and Police Crime Laboratory.

The BRUNSWIG ANNEX building (3) was constructed on the site of Los Angeles' first gas works of 1867-69 (built by James Walsh). An 1869 photograph shows one gas tank there; soon after there were two. According to the 1872 Le Couvreur map there were four small structures on the south property line along Hayes Alley (Republic Street). The Los Angeles Star of October, 1871 mentions a gasometer being built at the city gasworks along with the foundation for a new building next to the old one. The tank was quoted as being eighteen feet high and ninety feet in circumference. The new building was required by the increased demand for light.

During the 1880's the Los Angeles Gas Company was headed by C. H. Simpkins, President, and V. E. Plater, Vice President. Their office was located at 9 Sonora Street (Republic Street, formerly Hayes Alley). According

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to the 1883-87 Sanborn map, there were three buildings along Sonora Street running back to New High: the two-story Gas Company building, a one-story storage shed and a small iron pipe fitting shop. In 1888, the Gas Company building was labeled, "two story pipe fitting shop" with a one story "pipe fitting" shop attached to its west elevation and a twenty feet long storage room on the corner of New High and Sonora. These three added up to 72.81 feet on Republic Street and comprised the "LA Gas Company." An 1894 birds-eye map of Los Angeles shows the two-story building with the smokestack. This building was demolished and the present building was constructed on the site of 1897 (Daily Journal, July 10, 1897, pg. 4). This 1897 building had a third story added by 1909 in which year the Assessor's map showed greatly increased "improvements."

The structure was acquired by the County of Los Angeles together with the Vickrey/Brunswig Building in 1946. The County paid \$293,000 to the Brunswig Drug Company.

The PLAZA METHODIST CHURCH (4) and the PLAZA COMMUNITY CENTER (BIS-CAILUZ BUILDING) (5) are located on the site of Bartolo Tapias adobe and land on the north side of the Plaza, at the corner of Wine Street. The adobe was constructed between 1830-45. It was later owned by Bartolo's son, Tiburcio. In 1856 Judge Agustin Olvera acquired the building. In 1877, Wine Street was changed by City ordinance to Olvera Street, although by this time Judge Olvera no longer lived there. The building was owned by Judge Olvera's daughter, Luisa O. de Forbes, until the early 1900's. The adobe remained standing until 1917, after having served as a residence and commercial structure. From 1883 on, the adobe housed five (or more) Chinese businesses with Chinese living quarters behind.

The first Methodist Missionary work among Hispanic people was undertaken in Los Angeles, Pasadena and Santa Ana between 1880 and 1910. The Los Angeles headquarters, the Plaza Methodist Church, began as a small mission in 1899. The church congregation came together in the one-story Olvera Adobe at what was then 125 Marchessault Street (later Sunset Boulevard and now Paseo de la Plaza). The first full time pastor was Reverend Enrique Narro.

The 1905 and 1910 Baist maps show the adobe divided into five addresses: 115, 115 1/2, 117, 119, and 121 Marchessault Street. This was property formerly owned by Luisa Olvera de Forbes, who sold it to the "LA Land Com-

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pany's Tract #1." By 1911, a Dr. Vernon McCombs had established several Methodist Missions throughout California. He also founded three social institutions beyond his endeavors as the leader of Hispanic Methodist Church work on the West Coast. These three were the Spanish American Institute for Boys, Frances DePauw school for girls, and the Plaza Community Center. The original location of the Community Center was also within the Olvera Adobe. The center was, among other things, a small clinic and a training school for handicapped persons run by Goodwill Industries in Southern California.

The Church and Community Center remained in the adobe until it was demolished in 1916. Sometime between that time and 1921, three frame structures were built on the site to house the Church and Center. In 1926, these wooden bungalows were moved across North Main to New High Street, and the two present buildings were constructed. The architects for both were Train and Williams.

Rev. Eucario Sein and Dr. McCombs had long wished to build a church combining Hispanic tradition and Protestant heritage. With the assistance of the Los Angeles Missionary Society of the Methodist Church and other agencies and individuals, the Plaza Methodist Church was realized. The Plaza Community Center building next door housed the United Methodist Church Conference Headquarters from 1926-56. It had child day care, social services and the clinic. In 1956, the clinic was relocated at 648 South Indiana Avenue.

The Plaza Community Center/Conference Headquarters building was sold to the State in 1956. In 1957 Mrs. Christine Sterling wished the building to become headquarters for all the Latin American Consuls in Los Angeles. Her design was inspired by a post office in Mexico City, and was drawn up by the architect for the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Corporation, Burnett C. Turner. The building was vacant until 1963 when the temporary offices of the Latin American Trade Mart moved in. In March of 1964, the Trade Mart opened in a building on the north end of Olvera Street. In 1965, a new state commission for El Pueblo was created which did not favor Mrs. Sterling's earlier architectural plans for the building. They instructed Mr. Turner to redesign it. The Mexican Consulate-General moved in in 1960, and after some time, they moved out and returned in 1973. At that time the structure was renamed the Biscailuz Building in honor of Sherriff Eugene Biscailuz.

The Plaza Methodist Church has had six pastors since 1926, the present being Dr. José M. Fernandez. The Church was designated a Methodist Historic Site in June, 1979 by the Pacific and Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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Interviews:

Robert Rosell - Canadian Society of Los Angeles
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Staude - daughter, son-in-law of Lucien Brunswig, & Brunswig Company employee
Burnett Turner - former El Pueblo Park architect
Dr. Jose Fernandez - Methodist Church pastor
William M. Mason - Los Angeles Museum of Natural History
Mrs. Cheffelin - granddaughter of Lucien Brunswig

Maps:

Stahlberg 1876
LeCouvreur 1872
Sanborn 1883-87, 1888
Dakin 1888
Baist 1905, 1910, 1921

Newspapers: Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

Los Angeles Star: 12/15/1870, pg. 3, col. 2.
12/14/1870, pg. 2, col. 1.
1/10/1871, pg. 3, col. 1.
2/8/1871, pg. 3, col. 1.
5/7/1871, pg. 3, col. 1.
5/13/1871, pg. e, col. 2.
Los Angeles Times 7/18/1943

City Directories: El Pueblo copy collection

Los Angeles: 1872, 1884, 1887, 1888, 1890, 1891-99, 1914

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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PHOTOGRAPHS:

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PHOTOGRAPHS INCLUDED IN THIS NOMINATION AMENDMENT HAVE
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El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park
History and Public Affairs Division
845 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

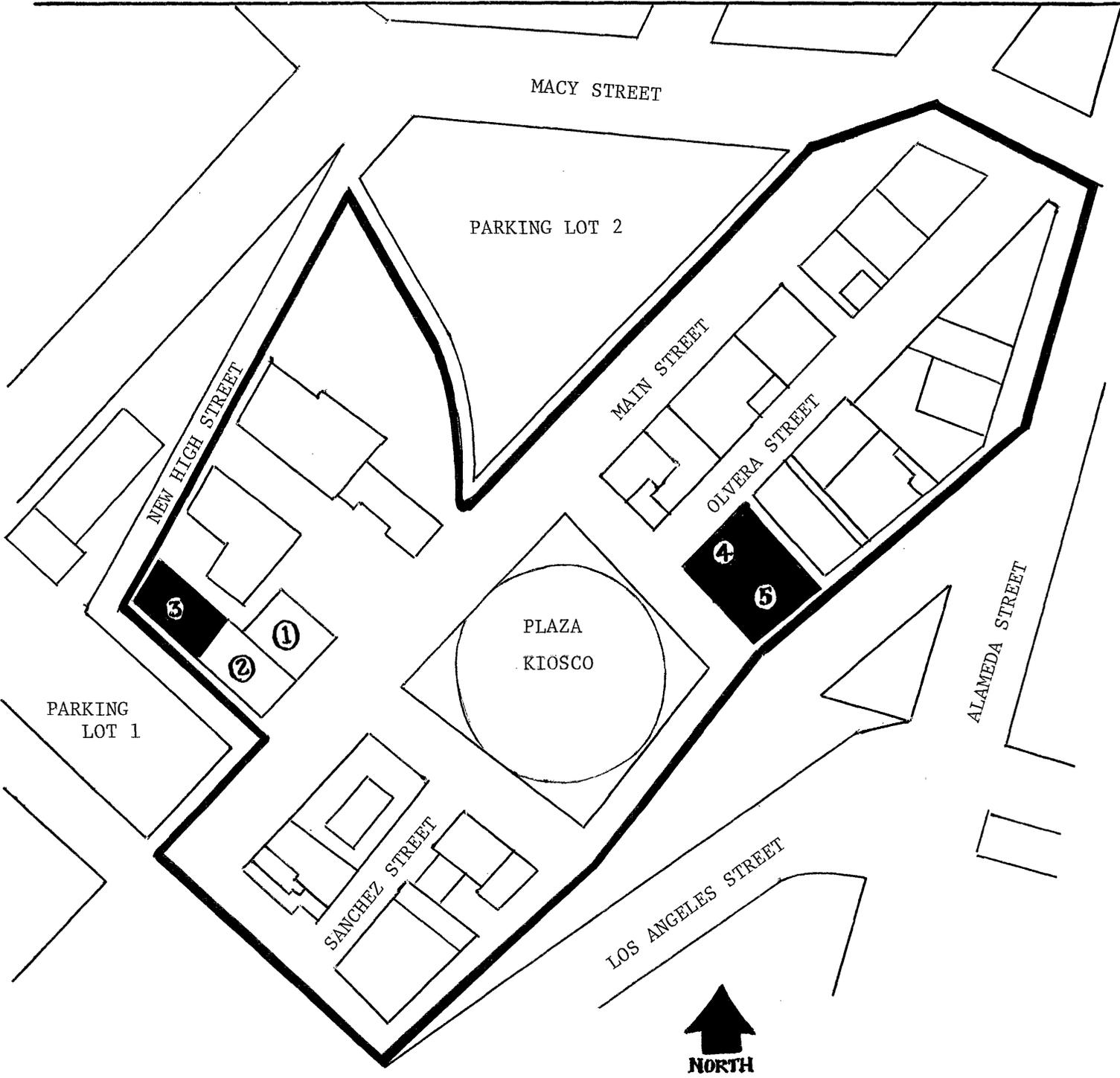
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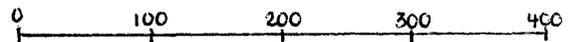
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MAIN STREET

--	--

PLAZA KIOSCO

OLVERA STREET

PASEO DE LA PLAZA

PLAZA METHODIST CHURCH ④	
PLAZA COMMUNITY CENTER ⑤	

LOS ANGELES STREET

ALAMEDA STREET



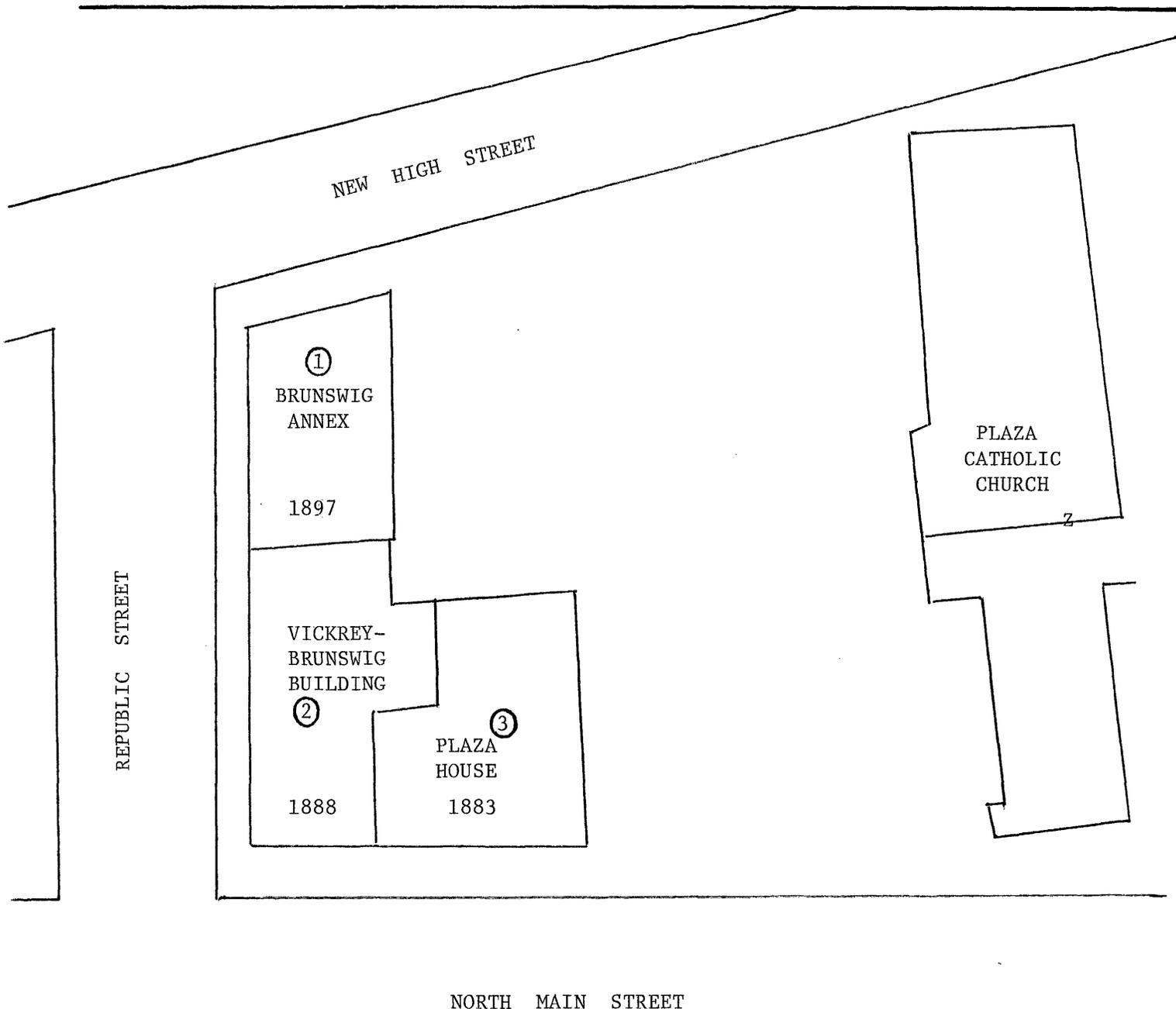
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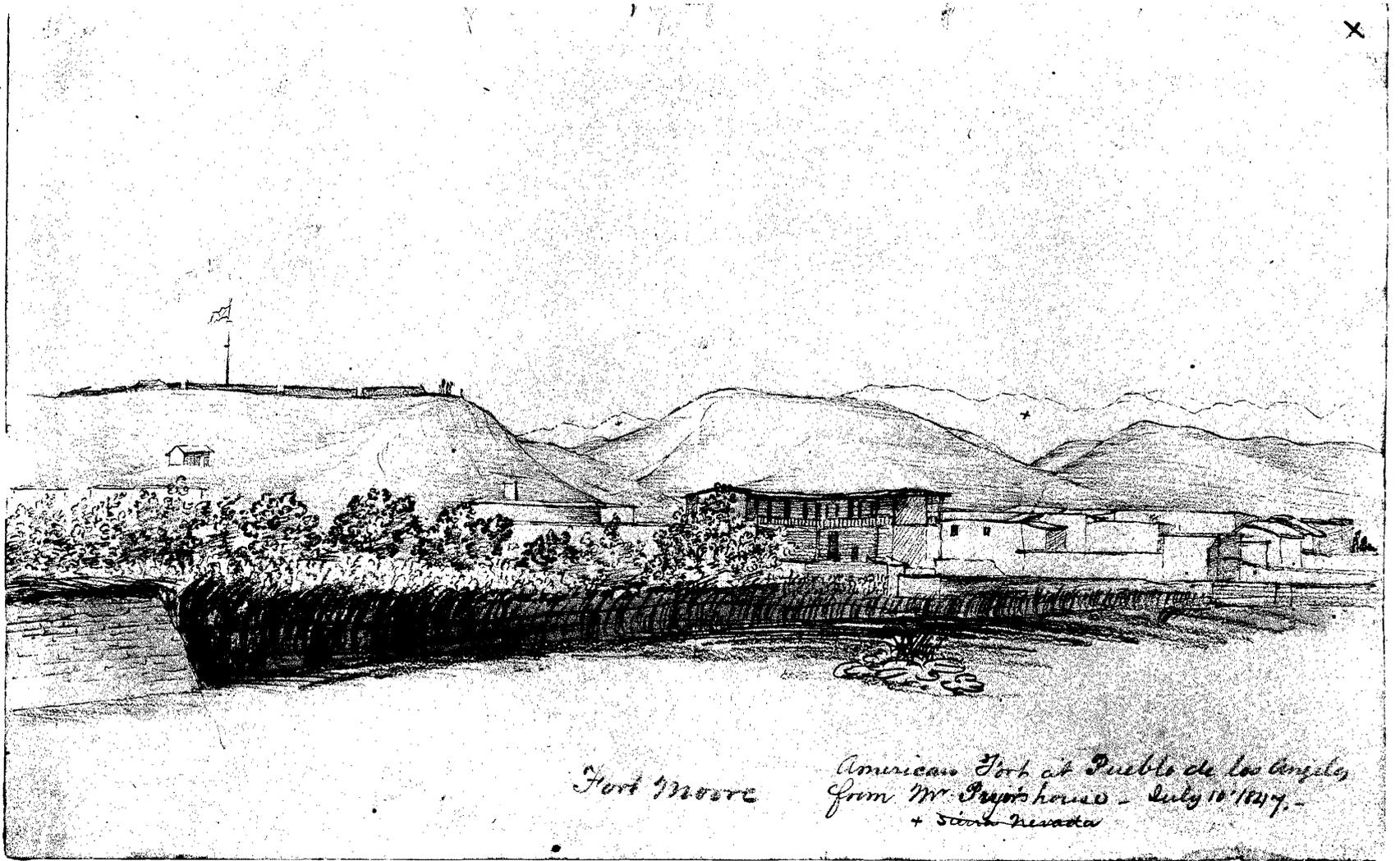


PICO HOUSE

SOURCE: EL PUEBLO GENERAL PLAN
YEAR: 1979
MAP: NOT TO SCALE

NORTH

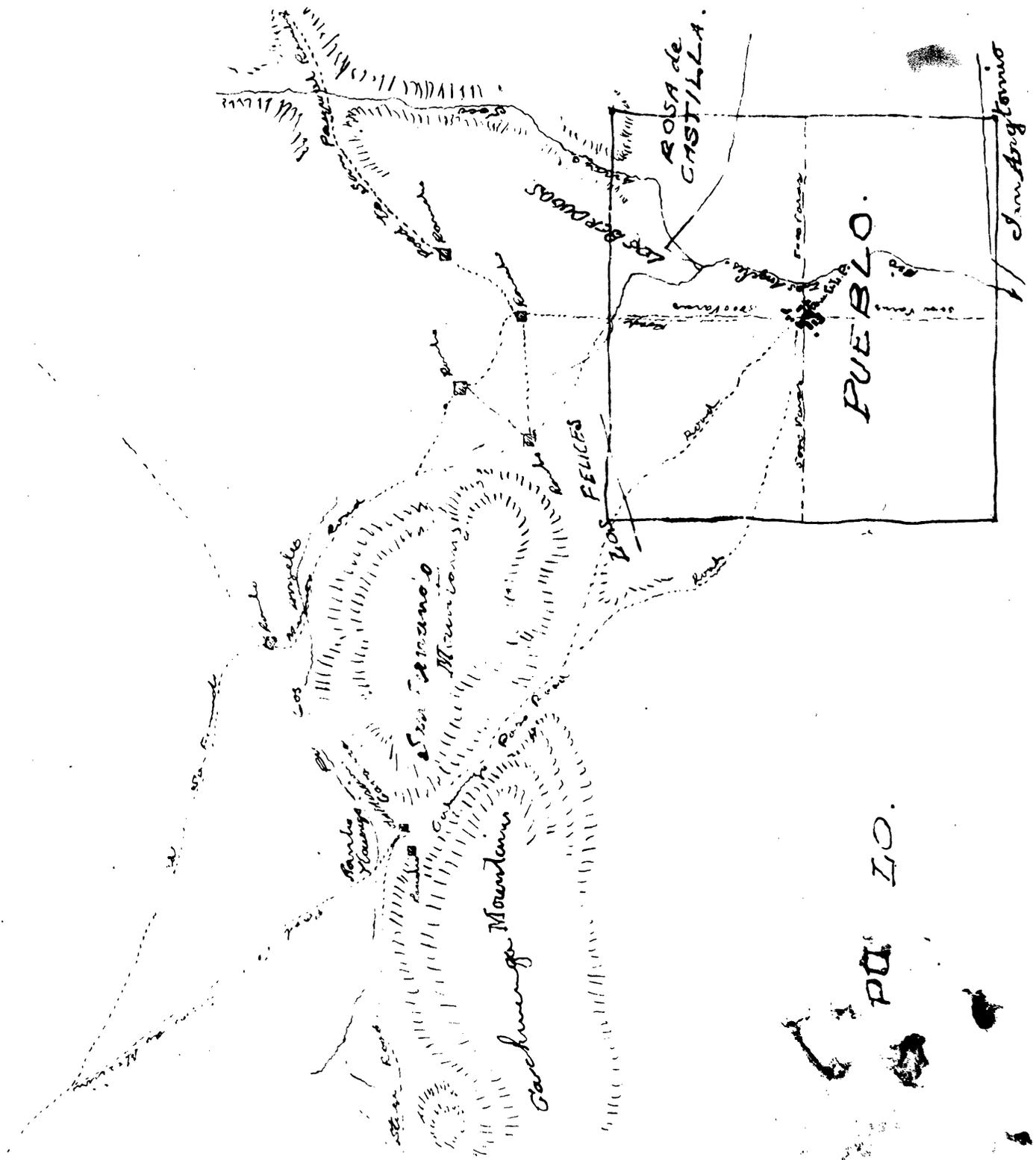




Fort Moore

American Fort at Pueblo de los Angeles,
from Mr. Papp's house - July 10, 1847. -
+ Sierra Nevada

Diseno 1842 Original in National Archives



PA 10.

MAP
OF THE CITY OF
LOS ANGELES

Showing the
CONFIRMED LIMITS

Surveyed in August 1842 by
Henry Hancock
U.S. SURVEYOR
IN CHARGE

ROSA DE CASTILLA

PLAN
of the District
OF LOS
ANGELES

Surveyed by E.O. Ord, U.S.A. and W.H. Fulton, Assistant
August 20th 1848

DONATION LOTS

Surveyed by G. Hancock in August and April 1852
Gen. Hancock, Com.

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 HANSEN'S FORMS and METHODS: San. Eng. - JAMES HANSEN.
 127 West First Street, Los Angeles, Cal.

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DANA BURKS' MAP OF LOS ANGELES
 ACCOMPANYING THE LOS ANGELES CITY DIRECTORY 1901
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NOTE
 The above is map of
 Greenway and property placed
 would join into and register
 with upper right hand
 corner.

STREET GUIDE—FIND THE NAME OF THE STREET WANTED IN THE LIST BELOW AND NOTE THE LETTERS AND FIGURES OPPOSITE. DRAW LINES FROM THE CORRESPONDING LETTERS AND FIGURES ON THE MAP OF THE CITY, AND THE TERMINATION OF THESE LINES WILL LOCATE THE STREET.

NOTE—INDEX OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PARKS AND RAILROAD STATIONS APPEARS AT END OF STREET GUIDE.

STREET	LETTERS	FIGURES
1st St	A	1
2nd St	B	2
3rd St	C	3
4th St	D	4
5th St	E	5
6th St	F	6
7th St	G	7
8th St	H	8
9th St	I	9
10th St	J	10
11th St	K	11
12th St	L	12
13th St	M	13
14th St	N	14
15th St	O	15
16th St	P	16
17th St	Q	17
18th St	R	18
19th St	S	19
20th St	T	20
21st St	U	21
22nd St	V	22
23rd St	W	23
24th St	X	24
25th St	Y	25
26th St	Z	26



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18th St	R	18
19th St	S	19
20th St	T	20
21st St	U	21
22nd St	V	22
23rd St	W	23
24th St	X	24
25th St	Y	25
26th St	Z	26

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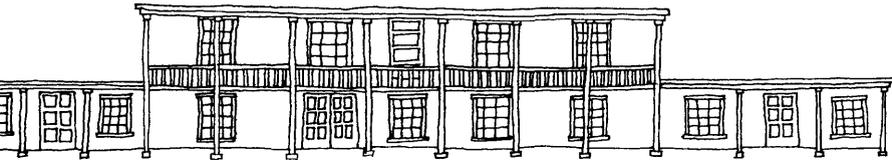
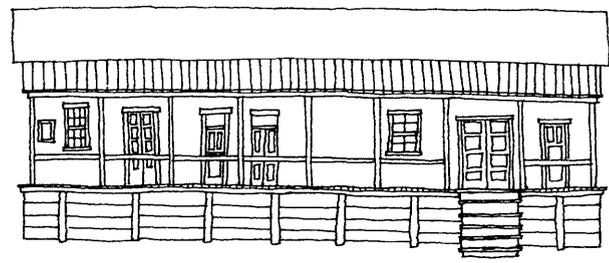
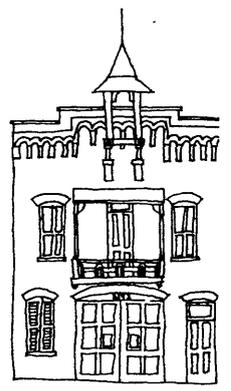
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